

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )  
 )  
 ) CASE NO. CR19-00159-RSL  
 )  
 ) Plaintiff, )  
 )  
 ) Seattle, Washington  
 )  
 )  
 )  
 ) February 8, 2024  
 )  
 ) PAIGE A. THOMPSON, )  
 )  
 ) 10:30 a.m.  
 )  
 )  
 )  
 ) Defendant. )  
 )  
 ) STATUS HEARING  
 )  
 )

VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE ROBERT S. LASNIK  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APPEARANCES :

For the Plaintiff:           ANDREW FRIEDMAN  
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PROCEEDINGS

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THE CLERK: We are here in the matter of the United States versus Paige Thompson, Cause No. CR19-159, assigned to this court.

Counsel, please make your appearances for the record.

MR. FRIEDMAN: Good morning, Your Honor. Andrew Friedman and Tonia Culbertson for the United States, and with us at counsel table is United States Probation Officer Darcell Prescott.

THE COURT: Hi, Mr. Friedman, Ms. Culbertson, and Ms. Prescott.

MR. MURPHY: Good morning, Your Honor. Greg Murphy with the Federal Public Defender's Office here with Ms. Paige Thompson.

THE COURT: Hi, Ms. Thompson and Mr. Murphy.

We're here for, sort of, a status conference, an update, and let me start with Officer Prescott and, kind of, see where we are in terms of what we've asked Ms. Thompson to do and what she's actually done.

THE PROBATION OFFICER: Good morning, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Good morning.

THE PROBATION OFFICER: A couple of things happened since the revocation hearing.

She was transferred to my caseload from her previous

1 probation officer.

2 A couple of positive things is her mental health treatment.  
3 She is seeing her prescriber. Unfortunately, in November, I  
4 talked to her mental health counselor. She was in attendance,  
5 she was, you know, meeting with her prescriber every three  
6 months. Unfortunately, her mental health provider -- her  
7 counselor quit, and now she's waiting to be assigned a new  
8 counselor.

9 Another thing we did was we modified her conditions of  
10 supervision so that she could do more community service hours.  
11 Because the way it was written in the judgment, it was capped at  
12 50 hours a year, and so it was difficult. Because she is on  
13 location monitoring, home detention, they couldn't let her go do  
14 additional hours without it being approved, and then the  
15 judgment.

16 So then on that front, she hasn't really been able to do  
17 extra hours yet, because the place where she goes changed hands,  
18 the volunteer coordinator. So I did talk to the previous  
19 volunteer coordinator, and now there is a new volunteer  
20 coordinator, and now Paige has to contact her and get back on  
21 the schedule. But they told me -- her exact words were, "We  
22 love Paige, and we want Paige to come and volunteer. We just  
23 need to coordinate and figure out what hours she can come."

24 THE COURT: Okay.

25 THE PROBATION OFFICER: So the things that haven't

1 really changed, Paige is still unemployed. And I haven't --  
2 from what she's telling me, she's not looking for employment.  
3 She doesn't want to work at, like, a minimum-wage job, given her  
4 past employment history.

5 And she's not made a restitution payment; however, some  
6 friends of hers raised money through a GoFundMe account, \$300 to  
7 be exact, so that she could make \$5 monthly payments for the  
8 duration of her probation. She has not made a payment yet, and  
9 I think she's got to figure out the details on how you get the  
10 money from the GoFundMe account into, like, her bank account,  
11 and I'm not entirely sure how that works.

12 So I think that's, I would say, an update on Paige.

13 I talked to the location monitoring person that does the  
14 scheduling, and she doesn't request a lot of passes. Most of  
15 her passes are for medical appointments, her mental health  
16 appointments, or they were for community service.

17 THE COURT: Okay. And have you had an opportunity to  
18 establish, kind of, an officer/supervisee relationship with  
19 Ms. Thompson?

20 THE PROBATION OFFICER: Yeah, I think so. I met with  
21 her once at her residence, but we do talk regularly via text  
22 message or on the phone. We communicate about what's going on.

23 THE COURT: Okay. And you and I had a conversation  
24 about maybe having Ms. Thompson keep a diary.

25 THE PROBATION OFFICER: Yes. I spoke to her the

1 following day and asked her to start journaling her daily  
2 activities and her goals for this year. She said she would do  
3 that, and I believe that she has.

4 THE COURT: Great. Thanks very much, Officer  
5 Prescott.

6 THE PROBATION OFFICER: You're welcome.

7 THE COURT: Mr. Friedman, is there anything you want  
8 to say, or are you just watching?

9 MR. FRIEDMAN: Largely watching, Your Honor. There's  
10 nothing pending before the court.

11 THE COURT: Let me know if you want to say something,  
12 and I'll tell you, no, you can't.

13 All right. Mr. Murphy?

14 MR. MURPHY: Similarly. I have impressions, but no  
15 real expertise. I'm happy to share those, but I know the court  
16 wants to hear, primarily, from my client.

17 THE COURT: Yes. Ms. Thompson?

18 THE DEFENDANT: Where should I start? Can everybody  
19 hear me?

20 THE COURT: Yes.

21 MR. MURPHY: Your Honor, maybe I will share some  
22 impressions. It'll give Ms. Thompson something to disagree  
23 with.

24 THE COURT: Sure.

25 MR. MURPHY: So let me first say that I think there

1 are a handful of things that have dramatically improved since  
2 the last time I was here before Your Honor.

3 I think Officer Prescott is a good choice for Ms. Thompson,  
4 and for reasons that have nothing to do with the quality to  
5 their -- her professional abilities are better than her prior  
6 probation officer.

7 I think Ms. Thompson seems to be in a better place  
8 emotionally, feels less attacked than the last time we were here  
9 on a revocation hearing.

10 Those are just my impressions, and as I say, she may well  
11 disagree with those.

12 I think my impression, also, is that Ms. Thompson, as the  
13 court knows, the court imposed a long period of home detention.  
14 And she was convicted and has -- you know, so she has a felony  
15 conviction, a huge amount of restitution, beyond what any one of  
16 us could ever pay, and home detention. And I think the  
17 cumulative effect of those has been somewhat demoralizing, I  
18 think.

19 And so you're welcome to read her journals, which she did  
20 bring them, but, as I review them, I don't see a lot of  
21 optimism, except, perhaps, around her cat. And I know that, you  
22 know, she's said things like, you know, she has to go get her  
23 medication, her home medication, for example, but has been too  
24 discouraged to ask for a pass to go to the pharmacy. And to do  
25 that, which I'm sure -- you know, probation, obviously, would

1 grant that, but not wanting to, sort of, go out and to do basic,  
2 sort of, care-for-self kind of things is the kind of things I've  
3 seen and gives me some reason to worry.

4 So I know -- I think this volunteer work has been great. I  
5 know that they appreciate her. I know that she appreciates, you  
6 know, being outside and being productive and being helpful.

7 I think it's unfortunate that, you know, a number of the  
8 people who have been important for her have left; you know, Mo  
9 Hamoudi, the mental health coordinator who was so appreciative  
10 of her, the mental health counselor. You know, it would be nice  
11 if there was some continuity there, but, you know, it's not the  
12 world we live in.

13 So those are my impressions, and I'll just set Ms. Thompson  
14 up to disagree with me as she sees fit.

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 THE DEFENDANT: I wanted to add that, as far as the  
17 payment amounts, I talked to Maxine, and she said it would be  
18 fine, if I needed to pay more than \$5, the terms of that can be  
19 renegotiated.

20 THE COURT: Sure.

21 THE DEFENDANT: Okay, just, yeah.

22 THE COURT: So did I hear that right, the thing you're  
23 most excited and optimistic about is your cat?

24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I think so.

25 THE COURT: My son, Andy, in Portland, just adopted a

1 cat, and that's all he can talk about is Roo the cat and how  
2 much joy he's brought to him. There's nothing wrong with that.  
3 Cats can be more constantly loving than people can be. No  
4 question about that.

5 THE DEFENDANT: I've had him -- we adopted him in  
6 2021, November 2021, so I've had him for a while. Yeah, I think  
7 everybody in the house wants to pet him and pick him up and  
8 stuff, but he's pretty much only loyal to me.

9 THE COURT: What is the cat's name?

10 THE DEFENDANT: Catman.

11 THE COURT: Catman. Okay.

12 THE WITNESS: It just sort of stuck. I don't know  
13 why.

14 THE COURT: And, you know, Ms. Thompson, you see  
15 layoffs happening in the tech industry now in pretty phenomenal  
16 numbers. It's not an easy profession to get into, even if you  
17 don't have a criminal conviction and past like you do; that  
18 would make people kind of hesitant.

19 Do you see yourself employed in some way besides using  
20 tech?

21 THE DEFENDANT: I do. I think it would be a lot  
22 easier for me if I were doing it for myself. I feel like having  
23 it as an obligation has added a little bit of stress to it.  
24 It's kind of, I guess -- I guess, I do have some problems with  
25 anxiety, so I don't really know how to explain that, but anxiety



1 sucks.

2 THE COURT: Yeah, and you're not alone. Especially  
3 during the pandemic, a lot of people have been crippled by  
4 anxiety in one way or the other.

5 How are you doing with Darcell?

6 THE DEFENDANT: She's fine, actually, I think so.

7 THE COURT: That's what she's told me, yeah.

8 THE DEFENDANT: Yeah. I -- I don't know. What you  
9 mentioned about the layoffs and the competitiveness of working  
10 in tech, it is difficult, but it's -- yeah, I guess it's not --  
11 it's not something that -- I mean, I don't have to work in a  
12 tech job. I don't -- I just -- I just -- I think it would be a  
13 little easier for me if I were looking for myself and if I had a  
14 little more freedom to go out and look around, I guess. And --  
15 I forgot what I was going to say.

16 THE COURT: Are you open to working with Officer  
17 Prescott, to look at maybe some other kinds of jobs?

18 THE DEFENDANT: Yeah, that's a possibility.

19 THE COURT: Yeah? I think it would be good for you,  
20 because, you know, tech is, A, so difficult now, and B, the  
21 environment can be pretty cutthroat at some of these companies,  
22 as you saw at Amazon. Maybe a step to the side and doing  
23 something that helps your soul more might be useful.

24 THE DEFENDANT: Yeah. That could be -- that -- I  
25 think, ultimately, I -- I -- my passion has always been in

1 computers, and it's, like -- it's hard to imagine much else that  
2 would bring me as much joy. But, yeah, I'm open to doing a lot  
3 of things, even just for short term.

4 THE COURT: All right. Well, I'm happy to hear from  
5 you. I think we should set it up for, maybe, sometime in May  
6 that we do another one of these, and I think I'll let Officer  
7 Prescott kind of tell me, yeah, this is a good time, and then  
8 we'll schedule it going forward. Okay?

9 All right. Thank you. We're adjourned.

10 (Proceedings concluded at 10:42 a.m.)  
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## C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Nancy L. Bauer, CCR, RPR, Court Reporter for the United States District Court in the Western District of Washington at Seattle, do hereby certify that I was present in court during the foregoing matter and reported said proceedings stenographically.

I further certify that thereafter, I have caused said stenographic notes to be transcribed under my direction and that the foregoing pages are a true and accurate transcription to the best of my ability.

Dated this 22nd day of February 2024.

/S/ Nancy L. Bauer

Nancy L. Bauer, CCR, RPR  
Official Court Reporter